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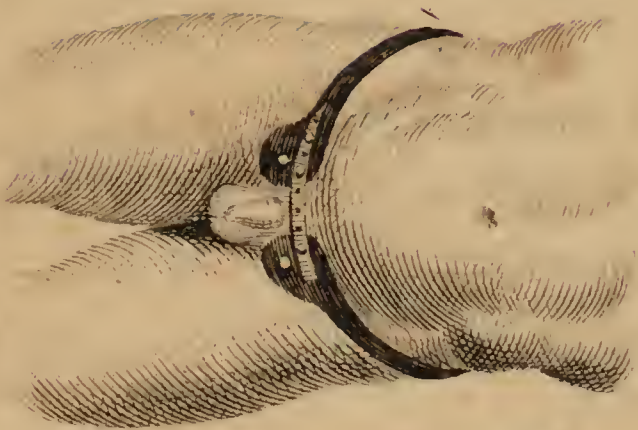
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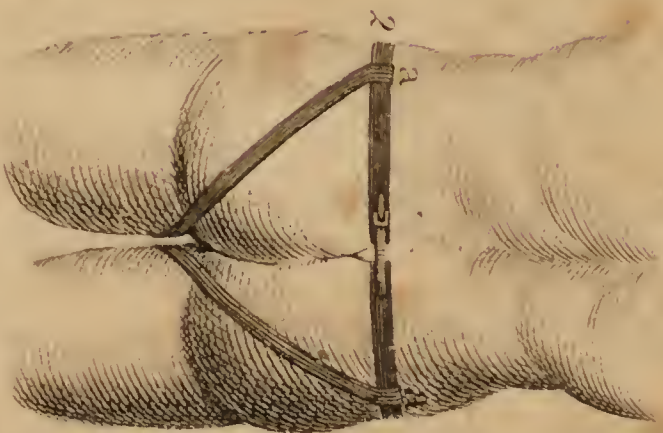
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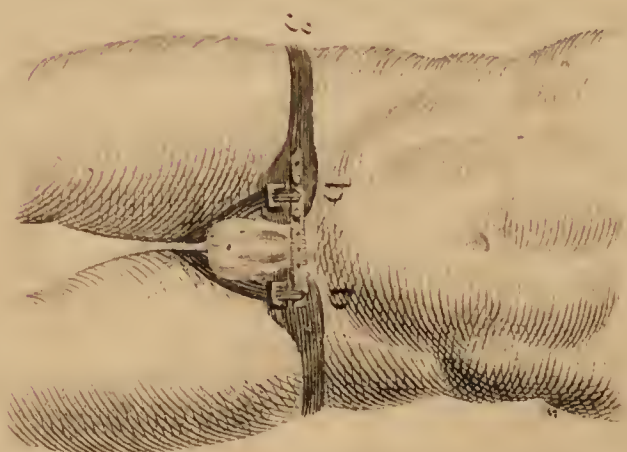


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London: Published 1802.

3. *Place for Truss before.*





NEW  
INVENTIONS AND DIRECTIONS

FOR

Ruptured Persons,

TEACHING THEM THE ART OF EFFECTUALLY KEEPING UP

INGUINAL AND SCROTAL RUPTURES.

BY W. H. T. Esq.

TO WHICH IS PREFIXED,

A RECOMMENDATORY LETTER

BY WILLIAM BLAIR, A.M. F.M.S.

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN LONDON, SURGEON OF THE  
LOCK HOSPITAL AND ASYLUM, OF THE FINSBURY DISPENSARY, OF  
THE BLOOMSBURY DISPENSARY, AND LECTURER ON THE  
DISEASES AND OPERATIONS OF SURGERY.

*Second Edition, with Additions.*

“ Non ignara mali miseris succurrere disco.”

VIRGIL.

London :

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## PREFACE.

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WITH painful reluctance I disturb a repose necessary to an enervated constitution, by presuming to address the world, without even the inducement of professional fame or emolument\* : nothing could have influenced me to appear at the bar of a public tribunal but the magnitude of the subject, the Life of Man, and an experimental conviction in my own case, as well as in a great variety of others, that the ruptured man is unnecessarily living miserably or dying prematurely, from the usual construction and application of trusses.

\* I communicated my information to a truss-maker, a man of education and understanding, lately deceased; but, though I suffered twenty-four years under his care, his pride prevented him listening to me: his trusses, from my alterations and additions, are now become perfectly useful. I never could get him really to *execute* the meaning of the word *fix*: my idea of it was, to sew *firmly*, so as not to move.

I think



I think with M. LE DRAN, as quoted by ARNAUD, "whatever tends to the preservation of the Life of Man, cannot be put in too clear a light; and, to conceal from the world any learning which may be useful to society, is the same treason against the public, as to bury a treasure. Let us avoid imitating such as are avaricious of their knowledge, and whose despicable jealousy would rejoice to see the world in the darkest ignorance, for the sake of engrossing to themselves the public confidence." *Le Dran, Præfat. 2. Observ.*

I do not arrogate to myself superior intelligence or powers, and candidly own my improvements are the result of accident and necessity (the mother of invention), as well as of experiment. A *wearer* of trusses *must* have ideas that can only be obtained by wearing such an instrument: a horse, could he speak, would pronounce which was the best saddle.

Long after my methods were executed, I was much pleased, accidentally to find that I had adopted the *old* system of firmness, and the mode of wearing a truss, of an eminent  
French



French Surgeon, who practised about the year 1726; and whose work, translated from the French, was published by MILLAR, in the Strand, 1748, entitled *A Dissertation on Hernias or Ruptures*, in two parts, by GEORGE ARNAUD, Master of Arts and Surgery; Member of the Royal Academy of Surgery, at Paris; Demonstrator in the School of St. Côme; Surgeon for Ruptures of the Hospitals of Hôtel-Dieu; the Invalids and Incurables of the City of Paris; and of all the Military Hospitals in France." I was charmed with the discovery, as I can speak in stronger terms of the system of another; and, being the system of a professional man, I hoped it would attract the notice of professional men: yet, I must do myself the justice to say, that Mons. ARNAUD's system is *completely* executed by means of the calico cushion, and which, perhaps, it could not have been without it.

At page 194 of ARNAUD's Dissertation, he says, "these measures ought to be divided between the surgeon and patient, till the truss has acquired a *firm invariable* situation:" my expression was, *immoveable*.

Page 203, he says, "we are to observe, whether the edge of the girdle is *immediately* above the fissure of the buttocks; if it is not so, we must carefully place it there, *and* the cushion will be in the just and proper position for stopping up the aperture of the hernia."

Page 206, he says, "as the truss is made to stop up the hole which gives a passage to the parts, so it is necessary that the cushion, (*i. e.* pad of the truss), should be placed directly on the hole, not *under* it."

I do not exactly understand Mr. ARNAUD, when he talks about "bending the iron 'till it fits"; but the elasticity of our modern trusses, renders such an inquiry unnecessary.

From the number of impositions that have appeared in the world, on the subject of Rupture, one's mind is almost paralysed. I owe too much respect to the world and myself to trifle; I will assert, therefore, from my own experience and that of others, of all ranks, that during the most laborious exertions,



tions, my instructions being observed, a reducibly ruptured patient, (the vertebræ and pelvis being naturally formed), may be as free from pain or danger, either from the disease or the instrument, as if he had no complaint at all.

Where the back is quite straight, and no projection of the posteriors, or of the lower hip-bones, (the great trochanters), I will not say but the truss *may* slip; yet, even in such a case, it has succeeded. Where men are formed in the usual manner, I aver that it cannot move.

I have the honour to inform the public, my methods have been adopted, after an investigation as to fact, with that liberality of sentiment that ever accompanies great minds, by some of the first medical characters in the metropolis.

I fear my wish to be completely understood has produced some tautology.

Agreeably to the suggestion of the Editor of the British Critic—indeed the liberal and  
b handsome

handsome observations of our public Journalists encouraged me to proceed—a truss and the calico cushion are left at Mr. HURST's and Mr. HATCHARD's, for public inspection, who have had the goodness to take that trouble; also, a truss which has been in use near twenty years, and which *once* was useless. Let the effect of the *buckle* on the pad be observed; it is marked and worn by the thigh strap pulling against it, when the abdomen pressed forward or downward.

The profits, if any accrue, of all the editions of this publication, will be expended in trusses for the benefit of a public charity.

Obvious circumstances of delicacy prevent me from putting more than the initials of my name to this publication; but, that the public may know something of the man who addresses them, let the egotism be excused, as credibility is properly attached to situations in life. He begs leave, therefore, to observe, that he is a private gentleman, of easy fortune, and of landed property, having many years had the honor of holding a captain's commission in the militia of this country.

To conclude,



To conclude, in the words of ARNAUD,  
"I have, with great diligence, communicated  
to the public whatever my particular appli-  
cation has enabled me to discover".

W. H. T.

COPY OF

COPY OF A  
RECOMMENDATORY  
LETTER TO THE AUTHOR,

FROM

WILLIAM BLAIR, ESQ.  
SURGEON OF THE LOCK HOSPITAL AND ASYLUM,  
Ec. Ec. Ec.

---

OCT. 31, 1801.

*Great Russel Street,  
Bloomsbury Square.*

DEAR SIR,

I THINK myself honoured by the wish you have expressed, that I would permit you to use my name as a recommendation of your pamphlet; but I am not quite reconciled to the idea of appearing very prominent, lest the purity of my motives should be questioned.

I have several times employed the trusses as recommended by you, which admirably well answered my wishes; and I have even found your calico pads *alone*, when applied to an old worn-out truss, produce the most decided advantages, in keeping up a Rupture of long standing.

The

The principal benefit I have derived from your instructions and friendly intercourse, has been in the mode of applying the truss, not obliquely as is usual, but after the manner described by MONS. ARNAUD; so that the line formed by the hoop or spring is exactly in a circular direction.

The trouble you have taken, in order to the revival of this method, does you great credit; and the publication of it must prove useful to unprejudiced persons, who will fairly make the experiment.

I know your intention to be honourable and disinterested, in thus stepping forward to serve your afflicted fellow-creatures. If you cannot persuade yourself to put your own name to the next edition of your pamphlet, I do not decline to afford it my feeble sanction, by permitting the insertion of this letter; but I hope you will see the propriety of informing the public to whose benevolent exertions they are indebted for so useful a treatise.

With due respect

I remain, DEAR SIR,

Your obliged Friend,

*To W. H. T. Esq.*

WILLIAM BLAIR.

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# NEW INVENTIONS,

&c. &c.

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## CHAPTER I.

A LETTER OF PRELIMINARY INSTRUCTIONS TO A RUPTURED PATIENT.

---

FROM its great ease and convenience both to the writer and reader, I adopt the epistolary form. I therefore, Sir, hope to give you such clear instructions, as will enable you to be comfortable, if the Rupture is reducible. Your wonder will cease at my success, in keeping up Ruptures, when I tell you the reason; which is, that my method *really* inflicts that firm pressure, which the usual mode could not do in a *sufficient* degree. Above the groin of every human being is a small aperture through which the

B

intestine

intestine may descend, and which you must learn to reduce; that is, return to its place whatever comes down, agreeably to these instructions. (See *chap. 3.*)

2dly: Then, under the pad of the truss is to be worn a calico roller or cushion, (See *chap. 5.*) The *rough* edges of this cushion are to be worn upwards and downwards; and it is to be about a quarter of an inch broader than the pad of the truss, *except* the side next the thigh.

3dly. As to the method of wearing the truss, (See *chap. 6.*) Place the lower edge of the hoop part of the truss as low down *behind* as the division of the posteriors, but no lower, (See *fig. 2.*) Put it straight round the body, pull it as tight as possible: it will lodge on and above the lower hip bone, and remain in its place on the aperture. If you be already in possession of a truss, wear it as above; for it must be a bad truss indeed, that will not *then, with* the calico cushion, keep up a Rupture: but with a thigh strap fixed to the hoop, and a buckle at the bottom of the pad, the Rupture cannot descend.

The



The thigh strap should be *sewn* to the hoop part *after* being fitted on, about one inch behind the lower hip bone, (the great trochanter). I wish you to understand how necessary this is to be done, and *why* the thigh strap sewn *fast* to the hoop at (*a*) should keep up the Rupture.—It is, because when the belly *pushes* against the pad under (*b*), the sewing at (*a*) draws (*b*) *close* to the body.

Patients generally think—

First, That the truss will drop off.

Secondly, That they are bound so tight they cannot walk. But,

Thirdly, In a short time they exclaim—I feel well ! I feel no Rupture !

Be assured, in a reducible case, if success does not attend you, the only cause that a failure can be attributed to is, the want of a literal, full, and accurate attention to my instructions. I also subjoin some *general* directions for the ruptured :

The patient should have two trusses in his

B 2

possession

possession fit for use. He should never, night or day, be without his truss on: for a cough in the night might produce a fatal descent and stricture; and by permitting the Rupture to descend, Nature has no chance of recovering the power of retaining the parts in their position.

He should, as soon as the complaint comes on, obtain medical advice; and lose no time, as by delay adhesions may be formed, which might have been prevented. The patient himself should learn to sew the thigh strap to the hoop part, and have by him more straps and calico cushions than trusses.

All persons, even those who are not ruptured, should, when riding on horseback, wear leathern breeches; as they keep the intestines in a state of quietude, therefore are less likely to become ruptured from violent exertions.

The utmost caution is necessary, to observe that the Rupture is reduced before the truss be put on, or much harm, even death itself, might

might ensue; and, in young males, the situation of the testes must also be attended to.

A *double* truss, even for a single Rupture, is preferable; it sits as easy as a single one, and perhaps, might prevent a Rupture on the sound side.

In all cases where trusses are provided, a skilful surgeon ought to examine the patients and apply the trusses; for many instances have occurred of people wearing them, who never had a Rupture, and of others who, though ruptured, received no benefit for want of careful management in the application of the trusses they employed.

*Females* afflicted with reducible Ruptures in the groin, have adopted the methods here described, and with the usual success, though engaged in the most laborious work.



## CHAPTER II.

## THE AUTHOR'S CASE.

I CONCEIVE that a plain recital of my case and habits will elucidate my *methods*. In every part of this publication the reader will recollect, that *all* the observations are founded on facts within my own case, or the cases of others; and I believe it will appear, that these instructions are necessary to be known by the ruptured.

My Rupture is of that species called *hernia congenita*. At the age of twenty-two, (twenty-eight years ago), while riding on horseback, both the omentum and intestine descended into the *tunica vaginalis testis*, and was there incarcerated many hours with dreadful agony. My surgeon in the country, who reduced it, sent me to a truss-maker in London, and  
who



who was one of the best: he made an excellent *formed* truss. The late eminent Mr. PERCIVAL POTT, Surgeon, to whom the world will ever be indebted, inspected the Rupture.

I found the truss of little use; the thigh strap, which was of cotton, was *not* fixed to the hoop, but it hitched on a brass knob and constantly slipped off. On the most trifling exercise the Rupture descended; half my time was consumed in reducing it, and often in great pain. Above twenty times I have felt all the agonies of a strangulated gut, particularly about four years ago in Dublin, expecting my death for two days, and preferring that to the surgical operation.

Nausea, sweats, shiverings, cramps in the legs ensued; death was my only prospect—when suddenly and unexpectedly, from the applications used by my surgeon, the Rupture became reducible; and, as far as I am able to form an opinion, a novel case happily for me occurred: and the irritation has, as far as I can judge, *detached* the omentum from the testis.

The

The omentum is now reducible; and since my improvements were made the Rupture never descends, *except* when the truss is removed, and *then* it comes down to a great size. So powerful are the combined effects of these improvements, that with *safety* I have performed the *most* violent exertions on foot and horseback; ascending and descending the steps of the monument with designed rapidity; leaping over hedges, &c. for experiment, before I addressed the public.

From the same cause, the same happy consequences have attended even a printer, weaver, porter, and other labouring men, of all ages. I wear this double truss with a steel spring night and day, without inconvenience; and from its immoveable position and use, happily forget both the complaint and the truss. For years, I laboured under, at times, the most excruciating pains from swelled testes; the cause then did not occur to me: these pains were produced by the hard part of the truss injuring the spermatic vessels.

A repetition of these dreadful pains from a rough journey in a mail coach opened my  
eyes,

eyes, about three years since ; and, from an idea accidentally communicated to me, I adopted the use of, and by various experiments brought to perfection, the calico cushion, since which time the pains in the testes have ceased. Twenty years ago I attempted my plan of immoveability ; but did not succeed, the spermatic chords being unprotected.

I should observe, that some of the *same* trusses which were useless to me *before* the improvements were used, are *now* quite effectual.



## CHAPTER III.

## THE MODES OF REDUCING A RUPTURE.

IN cases of strangulated intestine, or of stricture, the patient should lay on the side of his body *contrary* to that on which the Rupture is; by which position, there *must* be a *lateral* recession of pressure from the aperture, which will give ease when the intestine or omentum cannot from inflammation *return* through the aperture \*.

Another position, in cases of difficulty is, to lay upon a chair with its back on the floor, the patients' heels to be placed against the wall, and his head on the ground.

\* I am indebted to Mr. MORPHE, Surgeon, of Dublin, for this idea.

Let



Let the breath be held in before an attempt is made to reduce the bowel; the acts of breathing and speaking contribute to force down a Rupture.

Cover the fingers with the shirt or handkerchief, by which means the Rupture is gathered up with more certainty and dispatch.

To render the practice easy to every one, I use the expression *knead* the bowel upwards through the aperture, as dough is *kneaded*\*; but during a state of inflammation, press upon the intestines very gently, if at all.

By comparing the ruptured side of the body with the sound side, it may be seen and felt when the Rupture is reduced.

Method makes every thing easy, therefore observe the following directions in the *order* in which they are placed:

\* In the act of kneading, the fingers are to be extended and drawn forwards, gently and shortly.

## Motion

1. Lay down.—The head is to be lowered, and the heels to be drawn up, or the knees to be raised.

2. Hold in the breath.

3. Be perfectly silent.

4. Cover the fingers with the shirt or handkerchief.

5. *Knead* up the Rupture.

6. Put on the cushion and truss.

7. Draw the thigh strap under the thigh *very tight*, and buckle it to the pad.

## CHAPTER IV.

## ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TRUSS.

THE pad should be *broad* and *flattened*, though not *entirely* flat. A pad of this kind causes more pressure than those which have a round elevation in the centre, from a false idea of producing pressure *into* the aperture; and the neck of the pad should be short, for if it be so long as to lay on the thigh, the truss would move, and the Rupture descend. A short necked truss will lay in the hollow of the groin.

The hoop or spring part of the truss must be formed in an exact circular line with the pad.

Not much edging of leather should project from the hoop of the truss, nor any quilting or stuffing. The



The thigh strap to be made of *wash-leather*, lined with moderately thick tape, to prevent its stretching; the end adjoining the buckle to be of neat's leather. The thigh strap to be *sewn* with strong *double* thread well waxed, to the hoop part of the truss, and looped over it: by *this fixture* of the thigh strap\*, pressure will act on the bottom part of the pad of the truss. (See *plate, fig. 2. a. b.*)

The *bottom* part of the pad of the truss is one part that stops the aperture: I have invented a *double-tongued* buckle, instead of the lower brass knob; this buckle *draws* and *fixes* the bottom of the truss close to the abdomen---there should be a groove in the buckle for the tongue†.

\* I must repeat, that the thigh strap, from its importance, cannot be sewn to the hoop part of the truss 'till *after* the truss has been fitted on; then sew it nearly one inch behind the lower hip bone, or the great trochanter, which projects *below* the thigh joint.

† It is material that the tongues should be out of the way: nothing would be better than buckles with inverted tongues, *i. e.* on the inside, agreeably to the plan of JACKSON's patent knee-buckle.

Any



Any truss, (constructed contrary to the above directions), will fail of keeping up a Rupture with *certainty*.

The double-tongued buckle is to be placed on the pad, in such a manner, as to have effect; the cross front strap should be lined and edged, which adds to its power.

In all and every part of the truss, in its sewing, its straps, its appendages, observe only one idea, and execute it: let there be ACTION, and materials of the best quality.

The *dangers* of a circular steel spring have been mentioned: a truss cannot have proper effect without a steel spring; it is not the spring, but the hard part of the pad of the truss that is dangerous, and has ruined many a man\*.

The

\* There are cases, in which, I think, a *steel* spring cannot be used without danger; but those cases, I believe, exist only in infants or very young persons, whose bones are soft, and the body in a rapid state of increasing bulk from growth.—In these cases it is highly desirable to try the effect of a leathern girdle with the pad, as usual;

The double truss should be *united* behind by a double-tongued buckle and strap, to let out or take in; and not formed in *one* horrid hard steel spring, cutting the loins to pieces.

usual; this being applied straight round the body as directed, and with the calico cushion, perhaps, might keep up a Rupture.

In adults, the steel spring seems to me highly necessary, and it can do no harm. I do not think that, to perform the usual exercises of life, there can be compression and power enough without a steel spring; but, I cannot positively decide without a trial.

## CHAPTER V.

THE DESCRIPTION AND USES OF A CUSHION OF COARSE CALICO, WITH INSTRUCTIONS HOW TO FORM IT.

---

CUT or tear a slip of *coarse calico*\*, about *twelve* inches in length. Form it into a square, of a size that it will *project* a quarter of an inch round the edges of the pad of the truss, except that end next the thigh; but, having no projection beyond the *neck* of the pad: the rough edges are to be upwards and downwards; then tightly fold over the first slip many others. For a grown person, the thickness should be *about* three-quarters of an inch: there is more danger of forming this cushion too thin than too

\* About 1s. or 14d. per yard.

D

thick;



thick ; its thickness or thinness must depend on the *size* of the patient. When the hollow in the groin is completely filled up by it, and *it* remains immoveable under the pad of the truss, it is then of a proper size.

This calico cushion is to be worn under the pads of the truss ; the outer slip or two of which may be changed at pleasure, for the purpose of cleanliness, or restoring the cushion to a proper degree of thickness. This cushion, judiciously made, will, even with a bad truss, most materially assist in keeping up a reducible Rupture ; and, with a truss made and used according to the directions of the Author, *aided* by his other improvements, will render the descent of a reducible Rupture, *impossible*. Where the omentum is *not* reducible, the application of this cushion is much preferable to the usual mode, by affording it protection from the injuries of pressure.

Its various and beneficial properties are immense ; and would appear wonderful, if not explained :

First,

First, It protects the spermatic vessels from being injured by the hard pad of the truss, which injury often produces hydrocele, inflammation of the spermatic vessels, hernia humoralis, &c.

Secondly, By protecting the spermatic vessels from the injuries of pressure, it produces a desideratum *never* before obtained. It enables the patient to girt the truss round the body with such an effective degree of tightness, that the Rupture cannot descend.

Thirdly, By uniting the properties of softness and solidity, it yields to the form of the abdomen; and thus completely fills up the aperture or ring in the abdominal muscles, through which the Rupture descends.

Fourthly, It is an additional column of pressure; and the truss being tightly fastened, keeps the omentum and intestines all *round* and *above* the aperture, in such a state of quietude, that it lessens their power in descent: and they are therefore less likely to protrude; on the plain mechanical position, that the smaller degree of force with which a



body moves, the smaller force it possesses at the end of its action.

Fifthly, It elevates the *pad* part of the truss to the line of elastic action with the *hoop* part, and thereby *preserves* and enforces its elasticity, retaining the truss in a state of permanent effect.

Lastly, On the tight application of this cushion, the patient is also relieved from all rumbling pains arising from the internal and partial descent of the Rupture, and from its combined qualities we accomplish the most difficult attainments; being enabled to inflict pressure on substances naturally too tender to bear pressure, and thereby enforce a system of *immoveability*; without the adoption of which, the use of all trusses are inefficacious.

It is necessary to add, that neither fine, old, nor washed linen, will have the desired effect; and a cushion after use, having acquired its form, is better than a new one. Its edges should be occasionally clipped; and the cushion should be formed of *separate* slips, as before directed, to be folded over each other.

CHAP.



## CHAPTER VI.

ON THE MODE OF WEARING THE TRUSS,  
FOR AN INGUINAL OR SCROTAL  
RUPTURE.

---

THE art of putting a truss on the human body has appeared so easy, as not to be considered as an art.

The immutable laws of motion were not adopted in the usual mode of wearing the truss: it was the custom to raise the spiral hoop part *on* the hips, (See *plate, fig. 1.*) several inches *higher* than the pad part; by which method, a false and oblique line of action was adopted, and of course, a small pressure on the aperture\*. The hinder part of the truss

\* In like manner, if the bandage put round the arm after bleeding, was to be placed one part of it disproportionately higher than the other, there would not be sufficient *pressure* to keep the compress on the orifice of the vein, and the patient might bleed to death.

was

was always put very many inches too high. The following mode is adapted for Ruptures in the groin: (See *plate, fig. 2. 3.*)

Place the hind part of the hoop of the truss as *low* down \*, as the fissure or division of the posteriors, but not lower; continue the hoop part or parts in an *exact* circular line round the body, (the spring of the truss being made in a circular line). This mode, the edge of the hoop lodging on, over, and above the great trochanter, and below the margin of the hip-bone, will keep the pad or pads of the truss *on* the apertures; producing to the wearer the most effective action, and removing the truss from a painful, galling, moveable situation—to an easy, comfortable, and *immoveable* one.

But it is necessary to *unite all* the improvements here suggested, to produce entire safety and effect, most particularly by strong *sewing* the thigh strap to the hoop part of the truss; then draw this strap as *tight* and close as possible round the thigh to the *buckle* on the pad

\* Agreeably to Mr. ARNAUD's own directions and words.

of the truss : tightness of girding decreases, rather than causes the galling, by lessening friction.

Another advantage which arises from this mode of wearing the truss is, that it will not be seen.

When the double truss is put on as it ought, it should be pulled so very tight\* as to make the flesh, *between* the two pads, rise to the thickness of the fore-finger. There will be no pain ; for the pressure is *only* where it ought to be, on the pad or pads of the truss.

The single truss should be pulled as tight as possible ; the cushion enables it so to be done, and *two* brass knobs should be invariably on the upper part of every truss.

Patients, whose Ruptures could not be kept up, and who had, for above twenty years, tried all kinds of trusses, are now by this plan completely comfortable, and perform all exercises.

\* The hinder strap also, that unites the two parts of the truss, should be properly tightened, *and kept so*.

CHAP.



## CHAPTER VII.

## CAUTIONS AGAINST DUMB BELLS.

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I MUST point out one possible cause of Rupture, both inguinal and umbilical; I mean *dumb bells*, which are also used both in our armies and our boarding schools, for the purposes of expanding the chest, or obtaining exercise within doors. One case of a gentleman came to my knowledge, who became ruptured in the act of using dumb bells, which caused these observations. Let their violent action on the body be observed, and their possible effect is obvious. I hope this caution will either banish the use of them from our armies and schools; or, at least, put persons on their guard, in having recourse to such dangerous bodily exertions.

## CHAPTER VIII.

A RECAPITULATION OF THE AUTHOR'S  
IMPROVEMENTS.

No.

1. THE *fixture* of the thigh strap to the *hoop* \* part of the truss, invented by the Author twenty years ago.

2. A buckle and its double tongue on the pad †, with a groove for the tongues, instead of a brass knob.

3. The mode of applying the thigh strap.

4. The calico cushion.

5. The mode of wearing the truss.

6. The application of the laws of motion.

\* See *plate, fig. 2, (a)*.      † See *plate, fig. 3, (b)*.

## EXPLANATION OF THEIR USES.

No.

1. THE strap draws and fixes the lower part of the pad of the truss to the body, and which *lower* part keeps up the Rupture.

2. It *fixes* the pad against the body.

3. It draws the thigh strap *close* to the flesh, thereby enforces actions of N°. 1 and 2.

4. See Chapter V.

5. Exchanges pain, inutility, and moveability, for ease, utility, and immoveability.

6. Produces mechanical effect.



## CHAPTER IX.

ON THE PERMANENT CURE OF RUP-  
TURES.

I SHALL not presume to give my own opinion on this subject, but most seriously recommend to the perusal of the ruptured some few quotations; and request they will recollect, that they were the opinions of one of the first surgeons in Europe, the late PERCIVAL POTT, Esq. of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. I must remind the ruptured man, that, as if his complaint did not make him sufficiently miserable, he has been in all ages, and yet is, a *marked* character for depredation, by all sorts of unprincipled personages.

The doctrine of the cure of Ruptures is a mine of wealth to the Rupture-monger, and of plunder and misery to the patient.—Mr. POTT says, in his Treatise on Ruptures,

Sect. 13, *Attempts towards a radical Cure—*

“ No disease has ever furnished such a constant succession of quacks as Ruptures have.

“ Our present newspapers daily supply us with a number of the lesser dealers in specific medicines and new-invented bandages, by which the poor and credulous are gulled out of what little money they can spare. Operative quackery is not indeed so frequent, or so readily submitted to; but I wish I could say, that more than one life has not been destroyed in our time, by attempts to form and support the character of an operator in this disease. To this kind of hazard the poor are luckily not so liable, as it can only be worth the while of these Rupture doctors to MURDER those who have before hand been simple enough to pay them well for it.

“ I have already said, that to replace the prolapsed body or bodies within the cavity of the belly, and to prevent their falling out again, by means of a proper bandage, is all that the art of surgery is capable of doing in this disease. Whether Nature will be capable of so contracting the part as to prohibit  
a future



a future descent or not, is a matter of great uncertainty, and which can be known only from the event.

“This is a subject in which mankind are much interested, and on which a good deal might be said; but, as an honest attempt to save the afflicted from the hands of those who have no character to lose, and whose only point is money, might, from one of the profession, be construed into malevolence and craft, I will not enter into it; but shall conclude, by wishing that they who have capacity to judge of these matters, (which are as much the objects of common sense as any other kind of knowledge), would not suffer themselves to be deluded by the impudent assertions of any *charlatans* whatever; but determine in this, as they do in many other things, that is, by the event.

“In short, if they who have so much credulity as to be inclined to believe and trust these lying impostors, would only defer the payment of them till they had completed their promises, the fallacy would soon be at an end.”

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The ruptured patient goes unrelieved from patentee to patentee, from truss-maker to truss-maker, and laments his wretched Rupture; when the only lamentable fact is, he has a wretched truss, more wretchedly put on.

In the reign of King George the First or Second, the parliament granted five thousand pounds to a pretended curer of Ruptures; yet Queen Caroline, (see Lord Orford's letters) lived wretched, and died of a Rupture.

I must quote from the ingenious Mr. White's Antiquities of Selborne, in Hampshire, an anecdote he there relates, of a rustic mode of *curing* Ruptures in children:—"At Tring, in Hertfordshire, a young ash tree is sawn partly in two, the ruptured child is drawn *nine* times *through* the middle of the tree, which is then closed up, covered with clay, and tied together; if the tree lives, the child is to be cured of its malady."

I have heard of the same *judicious* method in other places.

## CHAPTER X.

## ON THE PHENOMENA OF RUPTURES.

I CALL the phenomena of Ruptures those events that are not to be easily accounted for. A Rupture will sometimes cure itself; that is, the intestine will resume its position and health, even in adults, without any apparent cause; as happened to myself, on the right side, twenty-four years ago, and also to a friend of mine. I have heard of other similar cases; but no man can reasonably expect such an event, and remain indifferent with his disorder.

A Rupture may have a proneness of descent for weeks together, the patient in equal health, and using no exertion but walking across a room; and yet, at other times, it will keep up, though exertion is used, and the same trusses on.

A Rup-

A Rupture unattached, either of the intestines or omentum, will, sometimes, most suddenly recede into its place, without any assistance from the patient. This is more especially apt to occur, immediately after a violent looseness of the bowels.



## CHAPTER XI.

MILITARY, PAROCHIAL, AND HOSPITAL  
CONSIDERATIONS, ON RUPTURES.

IT is to be wished, that ruptured soldiers, when discharged from the army, should be furnished with trusses, even at their own expence. The stoppages of a few shillings for that purpose, might save them much future pain and misery.

It is to be lamented, in a country peculiar for its humanity and wisdom, that the indigent, who are ruptured, should suffer merely from want of due exertion in their behalf. That a fellow-creature should languish for years and become burthensome to his parish, because a few shillings are not expended in a truss, is most absurd, as well as cruel.

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The parishes in London, in some measure, provide trusses for their poor; but I fear, that in the country, many parochial officers know not what a Rupture is, and the ruptured wretch only knows by his agonies. I wish in every parish in England there was a charitable subscription to furnish trusses, and to have them ready for their own poor or their children; and, that an indigent man could as easily get a truss, as a loaf, from his parish officers.

It would be highly useful, if the well-disposed would leave legacies to those of our hospitals—St. Bartholomew, St. Thomas, Middlesex, &c. &c.—that receive ruptured patients in cases of strangulated hernia, for the specific purpose of buying *trusses*: one hundred pounds only, would do much good. The hospitals can maintain the patients, but not provide them with trusses, from the nature of their establishment.

I knew a woman who had endured the operation, and other instances of patients, who were obliged to be discharged without trusses;  
for

for want of which, after a single day's labour, they might have been in the same miserable situation again.

LONDON,

*December, 1801.*

#### POSTSCRIPT.

THE author accidentally omitted to mention that a specimen of his trusses may be seen by any medical gentleman, at Mr. J. CALLOW's, BOOKSELLER, CROWN COURT, SOHO; who will also take the trouble of referring persons that desire it, to a truss-maker of ability, who is acquainted with the author's inventions and directions.

THE END.

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the state of the climate in the  
month of August is given in the  
table of the climate.

London

1841

1842

1843

The following table shows the  
state of the climate in the  
month of August in the  
year 1841, 1842, and 1843.  
The table is given in the  
table of the climate in the  
month of August in the  
year 1841, 1842, and 1843.

1844

1845